

REMARKS

In the Official Action of December 9, 2005, claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

Claims 2 and 3 have now been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate certain features of canceled claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, this ground of rejection is now moot.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Simison (U.S. Patent No. 3,544,144). This ground of rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner states that Simison discloses all the elements of claim 1, including the funnel, the nozzle and the diverter plate. However, applicant respectfully submits that Simison fails to disclose the following features now claimed in claim 1: an adjustable nozzle, and a bent diverter plate. See page 10 and 11 of the specification which provide that (1) the nozzle may be adjusted so that the nozzle diameter varies to change the flow rate of the superabsorbent particles, and (2) the diverter plate is bent in the direction of the nozzle tip for optimal mixing of the particles and fluff pulp. See, also, applicant's Figure 2, illustrating the bent diverter plate and its bending point.

Claim 4 also stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Simison. This ground of rejection is traversed.

The Examiner states that it would be obvious to modify the design of Simison to include a unitary nozzle and funnel construction as recited in claim 4. However, claim 4, which depends from claim 1, includes all of the limitations of amended claim 1, such as the adjustable nozzle and bent diverter plate. Accordingly, claim 4 is fully patentable over the Simison reference for the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1 as above.

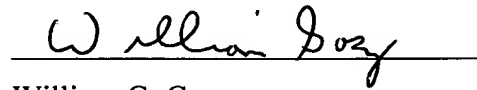
The references cited as of interest, namely Evans, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 2,589,068) and Pfeifer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,140,450) have been carefully reviewed, but are not deemed pertinent to the presently amended claims of this application.

Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, the allowance of claims 12-15 and 21-25.

In view of the aforementioned facts and reasons, the present application is now believed to overcome the remaining rejections in this application, and to be in proper condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the remaining claims in this application, is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to discuss any matter pertaining to the status of this application.

Dated: 3 / 14 / 06

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William Gosz", is written over a horizontal line.

William G. Gosz

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